

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for a “Response to Arguments” section in the last Office Action. It appears, at least in part, the Examiner has found earlier submissions non-persuasive because the claim language previously at issue could be more broadly interpreted than applicant’s arguments. Accordingly, independent claims 23, 29, 35 and 36 have now been amended so as to require:

- in addition to a first data object, the memory of each terminal includes a plurality of second data objects that are duplicates of data objects on other terminals, so that there is a plurality of sets of duplicated objects (basis at page 19, lines 3-11)
- the operations include displaying entities on the visual display, each of which being defined by the data in one of the data objects (basis at page 5, lines 4-6; page 18, lines 14-22)
- the operations include updating the data contained in the second data objects in response to receiving updates over the network (basis at page 8, line 23 - page 19, line 1).

The rejection of claims 23-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Hacherl ‘571 is again respectfully traversed.

Hacherl discloses a system including a plurality of domain controllers, each of which holds a replica of a directory service, or collection of objects. Each domain controller replicates data in response to a request from another domain controller (column 7, lines 27-57). A replication involves sending an object to the other domain controller to replace the whole object, not to update it (column 7, lines 58-62).

Hacherl does not disclose that each domain controller holds a plurality of data objects, each of which is a duplicate of an object on another domain controller, and therefore does not disclose a plurality of sets of duplicated data objects. Hacherl neither discloses displaying entities on a visual display, each defined by the data in a data object. Further, Hacherl does not disclose that a terminal not only provides updates of the data in a first object, but also updates second objects in response to receiving updates - more so since Hacherl does not send updates to objects but rather the entire object. Hacherl does not disclose that there is a master data object for each set of data objects. Finally, Hacherl does not disclose that a master data object is responsible for maintaining consistency in a data set. Hacherl does not mention consistency and does not address the problem of what happens if more than one update to the same data is received at the same time.

Given such fundamental deficiencies with respect to the independent claims as already discussed, it is not believed necessary at this time to discuss additional deficiencies of Hacherl with respect to other features of the independent claims and/or additional features added by the rejected dependent claims. Suffice it to note that, as a

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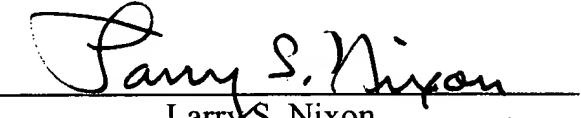
matter of law, it is impossible for a reference to anticipate any claim unless it teaches each and every feature of that claim.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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